

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03307 181457Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 NIC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 181341Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 723

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3307

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, SW, VN

SUBJECT: SWEDISH AID TO NORTH VIETNAM

REF: STOCKHOLM 736

1. IN SMALL CEREMONY IN SWEDISH PARLIAMENT BUILDING SEPTEMBER 14, FORMER PRIME MINISTER TAGE ERLANDER, ACTING AS CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BACH MAI, PRESENTED SKR 20.5 MILLION (ABOUT US \$4.9 MILLION AT CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE) TO NORTH VIETNAM'S NEW AMBASSADOR, PAHM BANG, FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF BACH MAI HOSPITAL IN HANOI. NEWSPAPER PHOTO OF EVENT SHOWED SMILING FOREIGN MINISTER KRISTER WICKMAN LOOKING ON.

2. IN STATE RELEASED BY MFA ON THE OCCASION, WICKMAN SOUNDED FAMILIAR THEMES OF RIGHT OF SMALL NATIONS TO INDEPENDENCE, CONTINUING RECALCITRANCE OF SOUTH VIETNAM, AND SOLIDARITY OF SWEDISH WITH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. QUOTE IN PART: THE STRUGGLE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN OF IMMENSE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03307 181457Z

IMPORTANCE TO ALL PEOPLES. WHEN WE IN SWEDEN GIVE THE VIETNAMESE OUR SUPPORT, WE SIMULTANEOUSLY LAY DOWN A PRINCIPLE WHICH IS OF

VITAL IMPORTANCE ALSO FOR OUR COUNTRY--THAT IS, RESPECT OF THE RIGHT OF SMALL NATIONS TO INDEPENDENCE. THAT SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE-- SUCH INDEPENDENCE IS NOT YET BEING RESPECTED. THE PARIS AGREEMENT MUST BE FOLLOWED IN SOUTH VIETNAM. WHAT IS OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IS THAT THE NUMEROUS POLITICAL PRISONERS BE RELEASED AND THE MANY REFUGEES BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. . . BACH MAI STANDS OUT AS A SYMBOL NOT ONLY FOR THE SUFFERING OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE BUT ALSO FOR THEIR WILL TO SURVIVE, TO CREATE A JUST SOCIETY. THE CONTRIBUTION WE ARE NOW MAKING FOR THE HOSPITAL'S RECONSTRUCTION IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE SWEDISH PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM. UNQUOTE. FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT POUCHED TO EUR/NE.

3. OLOFSSON, CHIEF OF SECTION FOR ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA IN MFA FOREIGN AID SECRETARIAT, TOLD ECONOMIC OFFICER THAT ALTHOUGH BACH MAI CAMPAIGN OFFICIALLY CLOSED FEBRUARY 28 WITH SKR 5.8 MILLION COLLECTED, AS REPORTED REFTEL, CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (LO) CONTINUED TO COLLECT FUNDS THROUGH JUNE. HE SAID THAT TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED WAS SKR 10.5 MILLION AND GOS CONTRIBUTED MATCHING FUND OF SKR 10 MILLION. OLOFSSON CLAIMED SUMMER DOLDRUMS HAD DELAYED PRESENTATION UNTIL NOW.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT TIMING OF PRESENTATION ON SEPTEMBER 14 NOT UNRELATED TO SEPTEMBER 16 ELECTIONS. IT ALSO ASSUMES THAT ADDITIONAL SKR 5 MILLION "COLLECTED" AFTER CLOSING OF BACH MAI CAMPAIGN, WHICH WAS PUSHED HARD BY GOS, REPRESENTS FOR MOST PART "CONTRIBUTIONS" FROM ORGANIZATIONS CONTROLLED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STOCKH03307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730926/aaaaasxl.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STOCKHOLM 736
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <30-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH AID TO NORTH VIETNAM
TAGS: EAID, SW, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005